



CITY OF BURLINGTON**Department of Public Works**

Street & Park and Water Departments
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CITY OF BURLINGTON DRAFT PARK BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017 6:30PM
2200 S. Pine Street, Burlington, WI 53105

Chairman Darrel Eisenhardt, Commissioners Jennifer Amborn, Clay Brandt, Lori Hintz, Jeff Schopp, Ald. Ruth Dawidziak, Jim Bergles, Director of Public Works, Student Rep. Alexis Meyers

Chairman Darrel Eisenhardt called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call: Present: Commissioners Clay Brandt, Lori Hintz, Jeff Schopp, Ald. Ruth Dawidziak, Jim Bergles, Director of Public Works. **Excused:** Commissioner Jennifer Amborn. Student Representative Alexis Meyers arrived a few minutes after roll call. **Also Present:** Mayor Jeannie Hefty and Alderman Bob Grandi.

Chairman Eisenhardt entertained a motion for approval of November 17, 2016 Park Board

Minutes: Motion to approve made by Ald. Dawidziak. Seconded by Commissioner Brandt. All voted aye, motion carried. Chairman Eisenhardt stated there were was no meeting in December 2016, therefore no minutes.

Introduction of New Park Board Member: Chairman Eisenhardt welcomed Lisa Wassick who is the newly appointed Park Board Member. Lisa stated that she has been involved with Little League for ten years and enjoys serving her community. Ms. Wassick looks forward to being on the Park Board.

Citizens Comments: Commissioner Jeff Schopp introduced his son, Charlie, who was present to observe the Park Board meeting to earn his Boy Scout citizenship badge.

Aldermanic Report: Ruth Dawidziak: Reported the City Council had approved additional funds for the Park Board for 2017: \$30,000. She also stated that the bathroom remodeling for Congress field was put into the City's Capital Improvement Program, and costs would be covered through the City.

DPW Report: Jim Bergles, Director of Public Works: Reported that due to all the trouble with vandalism at the Riverwalk pavilion, he would like permission from the Park Board to remove a tree and berm with bushes that currently blocks the view of the pavilion from the street.

Low growing flowers would be put in place of the tree and bushes that are there currently there. This would give the Police Department a clear view of the pavilion and allow them to see if anyone is by the pavilion, and help prevent further vandalism.

Mr. Bergles will come back with final plans done by Aaron DeGrave, Park Foreman, prior to beginning any work in the spring.

After some discussion, Chairman Eisenhardt entertained a motion to approve the Department of Public Works redesigning the landscaped area around the pavilion at the Riverwalk, to help prevent vandals from being out of site completely and further destroying City property. Motion to approve made by Commissioner Schopp. Seconded by Commissioner Brandt. All voted aye, motion carried.

Mr. Bergles also reported that an agreement between Baseball2000 and the City of Burlington would be going to the next Council meeting whereby the City would fund the cost of a proposed backstop at a cost of \$48,000, of which Baseball2000 agrees to repay 25% of the costs back to the City over a five year period.

New Business:

Dog Park Committee Report – Karlie Thate, Dog Park President

Chris Hohensee, Dog Park Committee Treasurer was present to distribute the Dog Park's Financial Statement for the year. Ms. Hohensee stated they had successful fundraisers this year, and that they also had people walking their dogs in the City of Burlington Christmas Parade. Their ending fund balance for 2016 was \$4169.20.

Discussion regarding dogs/animals on designated paths in City Parks

Mayor, Jeannie Hefty, Alderman Bob Grandi and City resident Jacklyn Zinnen were present to discuss dogs not being allowed in City of Burlington Parks.

Deb Rintamaki distributed a study she had done for the Park Board of surrounding communities in 2014 (when the question came up at that time) and again on January 9, 2017, showing which communities allowed dogs in parks. Sixteen communities were contacted. Two communities had changed from no to yes, Elkhorn and Whitewater. However, both required that dogs be leashed at all times. Five communities allowed them on leashes, but only on designated trails. The City of Janesville only allowed them, on leashes, before May and after September, when parks are not open. There were no municipalities that allowed them without being leashed. The remaining eight were no, not even if leashed.

Alderman Grandi stated he was surprised that dogs on leashes could not be in any of the City Parks. His thoughts were that the Dog Park was for socializing of dogs with other dogs, and that the City should allow dogs in other Parks, on leashes to make the Parks open and inviting for all. He asked the Park Board for their approval of a compromise.

Mayor Jeannie Hefty stated she had been contacted by a large number of people who walk and run with their dogs daily, and they want to have the dogs with them in the Parks. She asked the Park Board to see the other side for use of Parks and maybe come up with a compromise for all.

Jacklyn Zinnen, city resident, asked the Park Board to change their rules. She understands the issues of people not picking up after their dogs, but thought perhaps if they placed bags throughout the parks, this could help eliminate that problem. She also stated that she thinks the parks should give an inviting message to all types of people, and perhaps if dogs were allowed just on trails in Parks, this would be a good compromise.

Chairman Eisenhardt explained that the ordinance has been a City ordinance for over 20 years. The old signs had been down for a long time, and the new signs were replacements. Chairman Eisenhardt thanked Mayor Jeannie Hefty, Alderman Bob Grandi and Ms. Zinnen for their remarks and asked the Park Board members to come back to the February Park Board meeting with their thoughts and ideas on allowing dogs in City Parks.

Burlington Little League: Nick Hancock: Nick Hancock and Kevin Tomczyk were present to request help from the Park Board with costs in replacing the underground wiring at Branen field. A light pole had fallen last year, and while the City temporarily got them working, a permanent solution is needed. New wiring needs to be trenched in, and that itself could cost \$20,000.00. Netting will also need replacing, although they were hoping for it to last another year. The Park Board asked if Little League had any money to be used towards this, and they responded they did not have anything budgeted.

Mr. Tomczyk stated the lights were needed for night play, especially during the early part of the season, when it got darker earlier. They are limited for space, and the older players use the lighted fields the most.

They estimated the netting would probably cost between \$3000 and \$4000 dollars. Jim Bergles, Director of Public Works indicated he would check with Midwest Netting to see if they could receive a discount.

Mr. Tomczyk stated they would like to put in outdoor batting cages, possibly in one to three years, in addition to playground equipment, which was discussed several years ago.

The Park Board determined Little League needed to determine the best alternative, if they should use LED lighting, are new poles required, and if trenching was required for new wire installation. When they have determined this and have a definitive plan, they should seek out quotes for the work to be done and then come back before the Park Board.

Little League was also requesting to move the dumpsters at Hintz Sports Complex. The current location is in an area that is an attraction to small children. Jim Bergles, Director of Public Works stated it should

not be a problem as long as John's Disposal had access to pick them up and as long as they were put on a hard surface area.

The Park Board asked if Little League had any plumbers that would be willing to donate their time for the remodel of the bathrooms. This would help to offset costs. Mr. Tomczyk thought perhaps there would be.

Water Shut Off Valve at Hintz Sports Complex: Jim Bergles, Director of Public Works

Mr. Bergles also reported that the water valve at Hintz Complex needs to be replaced. He thought the cost would be approximately \$1500.00, and will come back to the March meeting with pricing. Wanasek Corp. will do the replacement.

Racine Co. 4H – Homeless Night Out (April 2017): Deb Rintamaki: Jen Reese of Racine County 4H had contacted Deb Rintamaki of the Department of Public Works requesting the use of Echo Park on Friday, April 28, 2017, to bring awareness to Homelessness. Deb Rintamaki requested the fees be waived, and that although the Parks don't open until May 1st, it would not present a problem for them.

Chairman Eisenhardt entertained a motion to approve the use of Echo Park as requested, at no charge to Racine County 4H. Motion to approve made by Commissioner Hintz. Seconded by Commissioner Schopp. All voted aye, motion carried. Deb thanked the Park Board on behalf of Jen Reese and the Racine County 4H.

Hot Chocolate Fest – Jan Ludtke, Chamber of Commerce” Jan Ludtke of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce and Dave Kmetz came before the Park Board to present Hot Chocolate Fest which is going to be held February 10, 11 and 12, 2017 at Echo Lake and various other locations.

The festivities will begin Friday night at 5:00 PM. There will be hockey games on two portable rinks, open broom ball for younger children, a camp fire with storytelling, and hot chocolate and chili contest by various restaurants in the City. They will be bringing in portable lights for night time activities.

There will also be activities taking place at Camp McLean. There will be a snowman made out of wood, that will be used for donations of hats and mittens that will then be given to Love Inc.

Mr. Kmetz stated the sponsorship has been very good and they are hoping to turn it into a yearly event.

After some discussion, Chairman Eisenhardt entertained a motion to waive the fees for use of Echo Park for Hot Chocolate Fest on February 10, 11th and 12, 2017. Motion to waive made by Commissioner Hintz. Seconded by Ald. Dawidziak. All voted aye, motion carried.

Old Business: None

Other Items: The Park Board discussed not leaving the bathrooms open at the Hintz Complex during Chocolate Fest this year, since there are plenty of portables brought in by Chocolate Fest. Director of Public Works, Jim Bergles will discuss this with the Chocolate Fest Committee.

Jim Bergles, Director of Public Works reported that the old gas station recently torn down on State Street was going to be a green space area.

There being no further items for discussion, Chairman Eisenhardt entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Brandt. Seconded by Commissioner Schopp. All voted aye and Chairman Eisenhardt adjourned the meeting at 8:14PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Deb Rintamaki
Department of Public Works